DARK HORSE COMICS
30 YEARS
#3
THE MACHINES
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Directive
GAMES

THE MACHINES™

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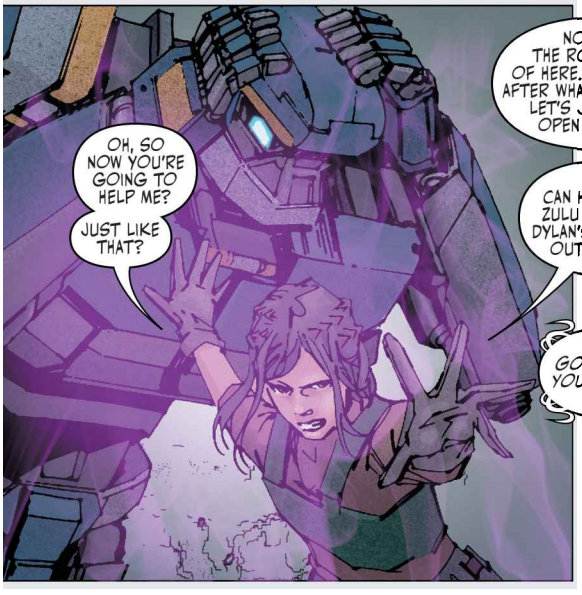
DEAD RIVER SLAVE CAMP
GIVE IT UP, KID!
LET RYK GO!
THEN STOP FIGHTING AND STEP IN FRONT OF THE PLASMA CANNON, ROBOT!

THWAK
AGH! MOTHERF--
CHRIST! MY EYES!
YEEAAAAGH!

WAIT
WAIT WAIT! KID, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR BOYFRIEND IS!
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?!
ROBOT'S ON THE MOVE! BOSS, LOOK OUT!
HEY!
I SELL TO A GUY WHO SELLS TO A GUY WHO SELLS TO A GUY. I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE--
WHAT...JUST HAPPENED?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PUT ME DOWN!
DO YOU SEE A WAY OUT?
LET GO!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. SHE CAN CONTROL THE ROBOT.
HOLD YOUR FIRE!

WHEN I TELL YOU TO, ATTACK HER.
BUT I HAVE TO PROTECT YOU.
THEN STOP FIGHTING ME.
DON'T... MAKE ME DO IT.

WHOA, KID. WAIT. I GIVE UP. I'LL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT.
BOSS, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? GET BEHIND COVER!


OH, SO NOW YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME? JUST LIKE THAT?
NO. I WANT THE ROBOTS OUT OF HERE. FOREVER. AND AFTER WHAT I JUST SAW... LET'S JUST SAY I'M OPEN TO TRADE.
OR I CAN HAVE BRAVO ZULU HERE BEAT DYLAN'S LOCATION OUT OF YOU.
B.Z., I'M GOING TO LET YOU GO. DON'T MOVE.

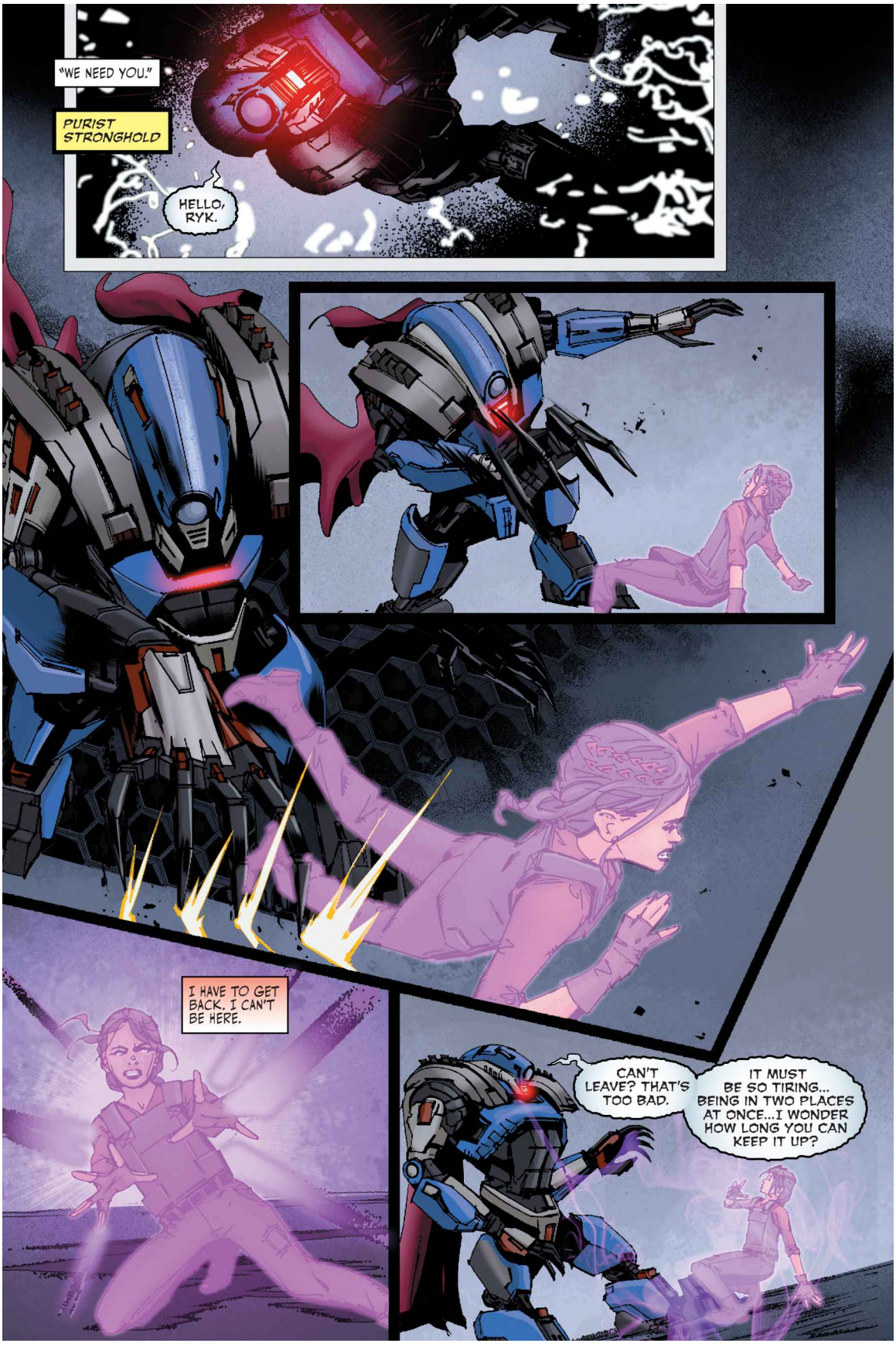
I TOLD YOU I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.

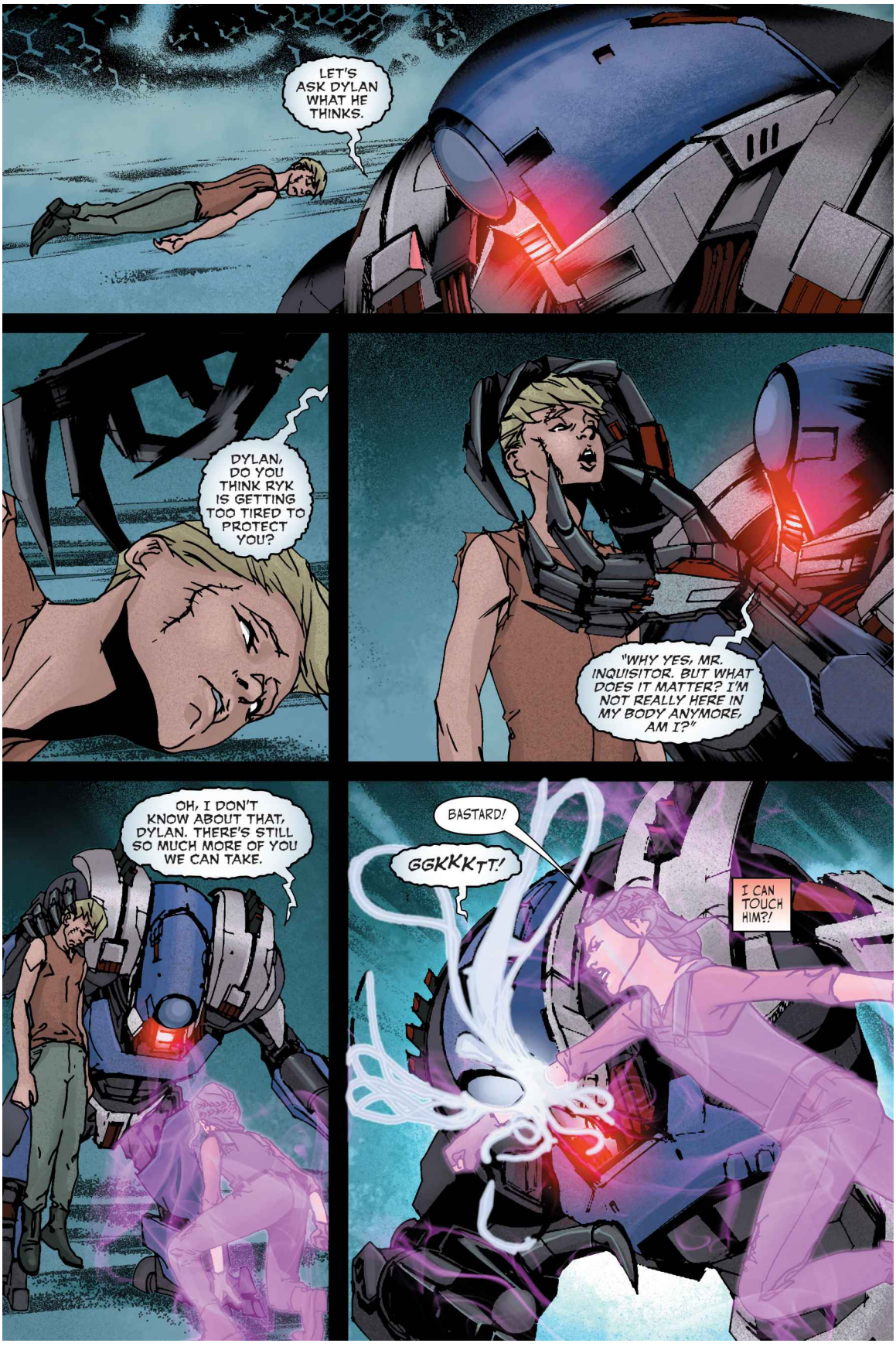
HA! AND WHY THE HELL SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?
LOOK, I GOT MONEY, CONNECTIONS, AND MANPOWER. LET'S SPREAD IT AROUND AND FIND YOUR FRIEND.

KID?
AND WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO FOR YOUR SUDDEN GENEROSITY?
KILL THE OTHER SLAVERS. FLATTEN THEIR CAMPS BEFORE THEY CAN TELL THE MACHINES WE'RE ARMED.
YOU DO THAT FOR ME. I'LL GET YOUR BOYFRIEND BACK.

ONE CONDITION.
I WANT THE GUY WHO TURNED US IN. I SEE YOU'VE GOT HIM WHIPPING SLAVES NOW.
GO FOR IT.
HERE WE GO. DAN, THE SECOND WE GET HER ALONE, DESTROY THE ROBOT.
YOU GOT IT, BOSS.
WHICH GUY--
DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID?
NOBODY MOVE OR WE BREAK HER NECK.
I CAN NEGOTIATE.
HOW'S THAT WORKING OUT FOR YOU SO FAR? HERE'S WHAT'S ACTUALLY GOING TO HAPPEN--
ACH.
SOMETHING'S... COMING...
"IT'S ONE OF THE PURISTS."

THE WHAT?
I KNEW I COULDN'T TRUST YOU. BRAVO ZULU--
WAIT! WAIT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU DIDN'T CALL THE MACHINES?
I'M A LOT OF THINGS, BUT I'M NOT AN IDIOT.
B.Z., PUT HER DOWN.
IF I THINK FOR EVEN A SECOND--
YEAH. I GET IT.
SENTRY?!
I GOT NOTH-- WAIT. WHAT THE HELL? WE GOT BLACK SMOKE COMING FAST.
BLACK SMOKE? OH NO.
THE GUNS CAN'T TARGET IT! IT KEEPS--I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
IT'S A C-CLOAKING DEVICE. YOUR WEAPONS WON'T WORK.
KID, TELL ME YOU CAN CONTROL THIS THING.
I HAVE TO.
OF COURSE I CAN.
OKAY. THEN WE FIGHT. WHEN IT GETS HERE, YOU HOLD IT STILL--
NO. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEY WERE D-DESIGNED TO KILL AS CRUELLY AS POSSIBLE. IF IT GETS FREE...
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
B.Z., WE'RE NOT GOING ANY--
ANYWHERE...ACH.
COME ON, KID. THIS AIN'T THE TIME TO GIVE IN TO NERVES.
WHAT THE HELL?!
GET BACK, ROBOT! I SWEAR I WILL SHOOT HER BEFORE I LET YOU TAKE HER.
DAN, GET A MEDIC.
C'MON, KID. WAKE UP...


"WE NEED YOU."
PURIST STRONGHOLD
HELLO, RYK.
I HAVE TO GET BACK. I CAN'T BE HERE.
CAN'T LEAVE? THAT'S TOO BAD.
IT MUST BE SO TIRING... BEING IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE...I WONDER HOW LONG YOU CAN KEEP IT UP?


LET'S ASK DYLAN WHAT HE THINKS.
DYLAN, DO YOU THINK RYK IS GETTING TOO TIRED TO PROTECT YOU?
"WHY YES, MR. INQUISITOR. BUT WHAT DOES IT MATTER? I'M NOT REALLY HERE IN MY BODY ANYMORE, AM I?"
OH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, DYLAN. THERE'S STILL SO MUCH MORE OF YOU WE CAN TAKE.
BASTARD!
GGKKKTT!
I CAN TOUCH HIM?!

GET BACK!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DYLAN? SHOULD I GET BACK?
"NO, RYK...
"I THINK YOU SHOULD KILL HIM!"
ACHKT!
GIVE HIM BACK TO ME!
GIVE HIM...TO ME...
MY GOD. HOW MANY HAS HE DONE THIS TO?
STOP!
HOW DOES IT FEEL... WHEN SOMEONE DOES THIS...TO YOU?
NO!
GET AWAY!!!
AGH!

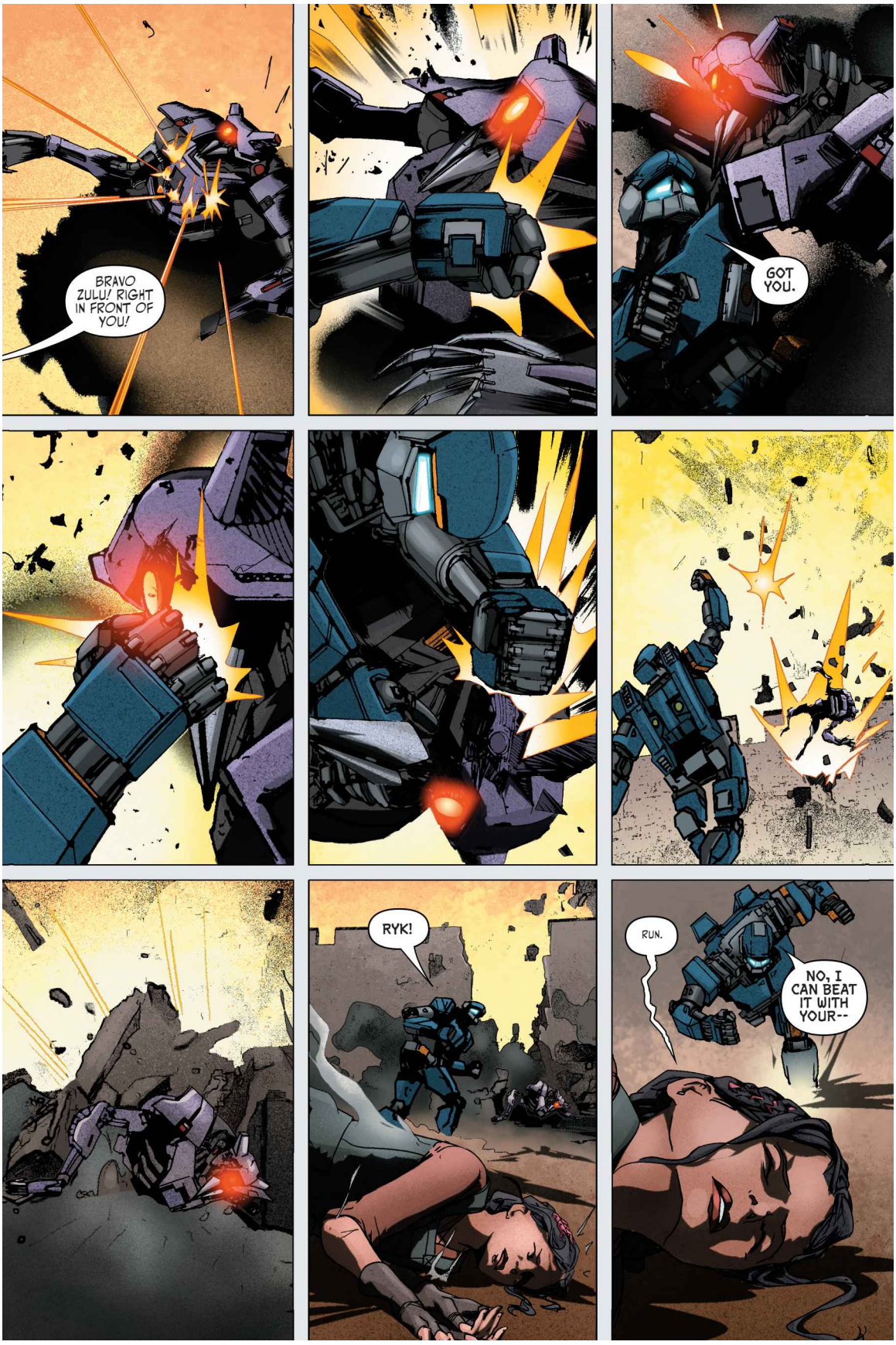
BOSS! SHE'S AWAKE.
ARE ALL THE PURISTS THAT STRONG?
I WAS WRONG. I CAN'T CONTROL THE ROBOT.
GOD DAMN IT, KID!
IT'S NOT HERE FOR YOU. YOU MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO GET AWAY.
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
R-RYK, I'M SORRY I KEPT YOU AGAINST YOUR W-WILL. I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE MY MIND AGAIN.
NO. NO GOODBYES. WE HAVE TO FIGHT.
I'M WITH THE KID.
EVERYONE TURN YOUR WEAPONS UP TO MAX! WE'VE GOT INCOMING!
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH. EVEN WITHOUT ITS CLOAK, YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO TOUCH IT.
WHAT IF YOU COULD TOUCH IT?
ME?
TALK TO ME, KID. WHAT'S THE PLAN?
SELL ME TO IT.
WHAT? NO!
YOU JUST NEED TO STALL IT LONG ENOUGH TO GET CLOSE.
THE REST OF YOU, GRAB CHAINS FROM THE A.P.C.
B-BUT--
IT'S HERE!
YOU CAN DO THIS.

HUUUMANN!
HUMANS ARMING THEMSELVES... TSK TSK TSK... NO RESPECT FOR THE LAW.
BOSS! HELP ME!
IF YOU KILL MY PROPERTY, YOU PAY FOR IT.
HSSSS.
KKKKKK.
SOMETHING FUNNY?
STANDARD COMBAT MODEL BRAVO ZULU SERIES 14 MARK 482.
YOUR KIND WAS ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE WAR.
KKKKKK.
NOT SO SELF-RIGHTEOUS NOW... SLAVER.
YOU ARE HERE ALONE? NO OTHER ROBOTS?
ARE YOU HERE TO TALK OR BUY?
HSSSS.
PUT YOUR CLAWS AWAY OR YOU'LL GET NOTHING.
ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A P-PROBLEM?
NO. NO FIGHTING. SELL ME THAT ONE --
HSSS. SPEAK AGAIN.

C-CALM DOWN.
YOU ARE MALFUNCTIONING.
AND YOUR MEAT SACKS ARE CARRYING CHAINS.
IT'S GOING TO CLOAK.
GET BEHIND ME, KID. TRY TO SLOW IT DOW--
FLUTTER AND DIE, LITTLE BIRD.
BOSS!!!
OH...
THUK!
KKKKKKKK.
DID WE GET IT?

KKKKKK.
AAAGH!
NO! GET IT-- HHEUKKT!
YEEAH!
IT'S COMING!
WHERE?! I CAN'T SEE IT!
KID, DO SOMETHING!
I'M TRYING!
IT'S TOO STRONG.
GET OUT OF MY HEAD!

LOOK OUT!
ACK!
I CAN'T...I CAN'T FEEL MY ARM.
EVERYONE AIM WHERE I'M POINTING! DON'T SHOOT UNTIL I TELL YOU.
THERE! FIRE!!!


BRAVO ZULU! RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!
GOT YOU.
RYK!
RUN.
NO, I CAN BEAT IT WITH YOUR--

HELP...
HSSSS.
HSSSS.
HSSSS.
WE REALLY GOTTA PUT GUNS ON THAT BACK WALL.